GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2834
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
AMMONIUM NITRATE
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include ammonium nitrate in the category of explosives;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of places where explosions have been carried out by using this chemical compound; and

(c) the names of substances or chemical compounds presently included in the list of explosives?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Ammonium Nitrate is notified as an "explosive" under Section 17 of the Explosive Act, 1884 vide Govt. of India, Gazette Notification No. S.O.1678(E)dated 21/07/2011.

(b) Ammonium Nitrate mixed with Fuel Oil is known as ANFO mixture and is widely used in blasting in Non coal mines. The commercial explosives manufactured in India contain Ammonium Nitrate as a major ingredient.

In various cases of terrorist /bomb blasts such as the German Bakery bomb blast case of Pune and the bomb blast near Jama Masjid in Delhi "Ammonium Nitrate" was found to have been used as one of the ingredients of the improvised Explosive Charge. Ammonium Nitrate was also used in the recent Serial Bomb Blasts in Mumbai on 13.07.2011.

(c) The names of substances or chemical compounds included in the list of explosives are as follows as per Clause 4(d) of Explosive Act, 1884.

(i) Gunpowder

(ii) Nitroglycerin

(iii) Nitroglycol

(iv) Gun cotton

(v) Di-nitro-toluene

(vi) Tri-nitro-toluene

(vii) Picric Acid

(viii) Di-nitro-phenol

(ix) Tri-nitro-resorcinol (sthyphnic acid)

(x) Cyclo-trimethlyene-trinitramine

(xi) Penta-erythritol-tetranitrate

(xii) Tetryl

(xiii) Nitro-guanidine

(xiv) Lead Azide

(xv) Lead Styphynate

(xvi) Fulminate of mercury or any other metal

(xvii) Diazo-di-nitro-phenol

(xviii) Colored fires or any other substance whether a single chemical compound or a mixture of substances, whether solid or liquid or gaseous used or manufactured with a view to produce a practical effect by explosion or pyrotechnic effect; and includes fog-signals, fireworks, fuses, rockets, percussion-caps, detonators, cartridges, ammunition of all description and every adaption or preparation of an explosive as defined in this clause.

Further, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 17 of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884(4 of 1884), the Central Govt. vide notification No.M-1272(1) dated 28/09/1938 has declared that "any gas when compressed in any metal containers whether such gas when so compressed be in the gaseous liquefied or dissolved state shall be deemed to be an explosive within the meaning of the said Act".